

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic radial tire comprising:  
a wheel tread part ~~[[is]]~~ being divided into a plurality of blocks and including at least one circumferential groove formed in a circumferential direction and a plurality of traverse grooves formed at proper intervals in a width direction so as to intersect the circumferential groove,  
wherein each of the plurality of blocks is provided with at least one sipe which intersects the circumferential direction,  
~~wherein a block section along the sipe is formed so that a cut area of an end of a center side region can be smaller compared with that of an end of a shoulder side region, and~~  
wherein a cut depth of the sipe changes in the width direction,  
wherein, on ~~[[the]]~~ a block section along the sipe, a ratio between a sipe sectional area S2 of ~~[[the]]~~ a shoulder side region and a sipe sectional area S1 of ~~[[the]]~~ a center side region is as follows:  
$$1.4 \leq S2/S1 \leq 2.0$$
  
so that block rigidity ~~[[can be]]~~ is higher in ~~[[the]]~~ an end of the center side region compared with that in ~~[[the]]~~ an end of the shoulder side region.

2. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1, wherein:

the circumferential groove is constituted by including a longitudinal main groove formed in the circumferential direction via a center of the width direction, and a pair of longitudinal subgrooves disposed by at least one on each of both sides of the longitudinal main groove, and

at least four rows of the plurality of blocks are disposed along the main and subgrooves.

3. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

a block section along the sipe is formed so that a cut depth of the end of the center side region is shallower compared with that of the end of the shoulder side region.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

the sipe is constituted of a one-end-open sipe formed by opening the shoulder side of the block and terminating the center side in the block.

7. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 6, wherein:

a width of an unopened part of the end of the center side region is 5 to 15% of a block width.

8. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:

the sipe is constituted of a both-end-open sipe formed by opening both ends of the shoulder and center sides of the block.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/500,244

ART UNIT 1733  
Q82272

9. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic radial tire according to claim 8, wherein:

~~the both end open sipe is formed by including~~ an end of the center side region has a shallow cut depth, and a base of the center side region has ~~having~~ a width of 5 to 40% of the block width and ~~a shallow cut depth.~~